

## CLAIMS

1. A tree or shrub shaping guide comprising:  
an elongated support positionable adjacent an object to be shaped;  
a shaped guide; and  
5 a connection mechanism connecting the shaped guide to the elongated support, which comprises movement elements to allow the shaped guide to move relative to the elongated support;  
wherein the shaped guide allows movement along a shaped path and enables a user to operate a cutting mechanism to shape an object.
- 10 2. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 1 wherein the elongated support comprises an elongated telescopic post for adjusting the height of the guide dependent on the height of the object, said shaped guide being mounted on or near a top end of the elongated telescopic post.
3. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 2 wherein the elongated support is  
15 mounted on a stand to enable steady unassisted location of the guide adjacent the object.
4. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 3 wherein the stand further comprises movement mechanisms allowing for ready movement to a new location or different part of the object so the same design can be applied consistently.
5. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 1 wherein the shaped guide  
20 comprises at least one elongated shaped member having at least a curved portion; and the connection mechanism further comprises movement elements allowing sliding or pivotal movement relative to the posts such that the shaped guide, including the curved portion, follows a shaped path.
6. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 1 wherein the shaped guide further  
25 comprises a plurality of comb-like slits to allow the shaped guide to follow a shaped path with parts of the object to protrude through the slits and allow trimming thereof to shape the object to the shaped path.

7. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 5 wherein the elongated shaped member forms a partial circumference of a sphere and the connection mechanism further comprises movement elements allowing sliding or pivotal movement relative to the telescopic posts such that the shaped guide follows a substantially spherical shaped path.

5 8. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 5 comprising a plurality of the elongated shaped members mounted on the support and positionable adjacent the object and the elongated shaped members movable relative to the support around the object by said movement elements of the connection mechanism to spaced positions to form an enclosing exoskeletal partial circumference of a shape and allowing a trimming of the object between the plurality of  
10 the elongated shaped members to form the virtual shape defined by the elongated shaped members.

9. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 1 wherein the shaped guide comprises at least one exoskeletal shaped member forming a portion of the required shape of the object and the connection mechanism of the shaped guide to the elongated support further  
15 comprising movement elements allowing sliding or pivotal movement relative to the elongated support such that the shaped guide allows shaping of more than one portion of the object than the shaped member covers in one position.

10. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 9 wherein the shaped guide mounted on the elongated support with the connection mechanism further comprises movement elements  
20 allowing rotational movement relative to the support such that the shaped guide follows a curved path allowing shaping of more than one portion of the tree or shrub than the shaped member covers in one position.

11. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 1 further comprising a cutting mechanism that is slideable along or moveable relative to the shaped guide.

25 12. A tree or shrub shaping guide comprising:  
an elongated support comprising two spaced posts each with an elongated linear foot that forms an inverted T shape, the posts being telescopic and positionable adjacent an object to be shaped and having cross member extending between the two spaced posts for strength, the

cross member further comprising a restraint mechanism substantially centrally located such that the restraint mechanism can fit around and be restrained an object to be shaped;

a shaped substantially semi-circular curved guide mounted by a connection mechanism connecting the shaped guide to a top of the elongated posts and further comprising movement elements that allow the shaped guide to move pivotally relative to the elongated support such that the shaped guide follows a ball shape around the object and that is employable to enable a user to operate a cutting mechanism to shape the object.

13. A tree or shrub shaping guide comprising:

a support positionable adjacent an object to be shaped;

one or more shaped guides; and

a connection mechanism connecting the one or more shaped guides to the support;

wherein by the combination of various shaped guides connected to the support a shaped path is defined around the object that can be employed to enable a user to operate a cutting mechanism to shape the object.

14. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 13 wherein the connection mechanism allows releasable connection of the one or more shaped guides to the support.

15. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 13 wherein the connection mechanism allows releasable simultaneous connection of a plurality of the shaped guides.

16. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 15 wherein the connection mechanism allows separate movement of the plurality of the shaped guides.

17. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 15 wherein the connection mechanism comprises movement elements allowing separate movement of the plurality of the shaped guides and whereby the combination of various shaped guides and various movement elements and or movement elements allows for definition of a three dimensional shape.

18. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 13 wherein the support comprises an elongated telescopic post for adjusting the height of the one or more shaped guides dependent on the height of the object and with the one or more shaped guides mounted on or near a top of the elongated telescopic post.

19. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 18 wherein the elongated support is mounted on a stand to enable steady unassisted location of the one or more guides adjacent the object.

20. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 19 wherein the stand comprises movement mechanisms allowing for ready movement to a new location or different part of the object so the same design can be applied consistently.

21. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 13 wherein the one or more shaped guides comprises at least one elongated shaped guide having at least a curved portion; and the connection mechanism comprising movement elements allowing sliding or pivotal movement relative to the support such that the one or more shaped guides, including the at least one shaped guide with a curved portion, follows a shaped path.

22. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 13 wherein the one or more shaped guides comprises a plurality of comb-like slits in at least one of the one or more shaped guides to allow the shaped guide to follow a shaped path with parts of the object to protrude through the slits and allow trimming thereof to shape the object to the shaped path.

23. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 17 wherein the one or more shaped guides comprises at least an elongated shaped guide forming a partial circumference of a sphere and the connection mechanism comprises movement elements allowing sliding or pivotal movement relative to the supports such that the elongated shaped guide forming a partial circumference of a sphere follows a substantially spherical shaped path.

24. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 17 wherein the one or more shaped guides comprises a plurality of elongated shaped guides mounted on the support and positionable adjacent the object and the elongated shaped guides movable relative to the support around the object by movement elements of the connection mechanism to spaced positions to form an enclosing exoskeletal partial circumference of a shape and allowing a trimming of the object between the plurality of the elongated shaped guides to form the virtual shape defined by the elongated shaped members.

25. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 13 wherein the one or more shaped guides comprises at least one exoskeletal shaped guide forming a portion of a required shape of the object and the connection mechanism of the shaped member to the support comprising movement elements allowing sliding or pivotal movement relative to the support such that the shaped guide allows shaping of more than one portion of the object than the shaped member covers in one position.
26. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 25 wherein the shaped guide mounted on the support with the connection mechanism including said movement elements allowing rotational movement relative to the support such that the shaped guide follows a curved path allowing shaping of more than one portion of the object than the shaped member covers in one position.
27. The tree or shrub shaping guide according to claim 13 further comprising a cutting mechanism mounted on at least one of the one or more shaped guides and slideable along or moveable relative to the guide to fulfil the required shaped cut on the object.
28. A method of shaping a tree or shrub comprising the steps of:
- (i) positioning a support adjacent the tree or shrub;
  - (ii) mounting one or more shaped guides on the support;
  - (iii) moving the one or more shaped guides adjacent the tree or shrub to define a virtual shape;
  - (iv) trimming the tree or shrub to the virtual shape.
29. The method of shaping a tree or shrub according to claim 28 further comprising the step of moving the shaped guides mounted on the support connection to a further location to allow further definition of the virtual shape and allow trimming of the tree or shrub to the virtual shape.
30. The method of shaping a tree or shrub according to claim 29 wherein the moving of the shaped guides mounted on the support connection is by movable connection of the shaped guides to the support whereby the movement of the shaped guides relative to the support

defines a shaped portion to allow further definition of the virtual shape and allow trimming of the tree or shrub to the virtual shape.